

**Senate File 97 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 97

BY GREEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to requirements for and restrictions on special  
2 minor's driver's licenses, and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.194, subsection 2, paragraph a,  
2 subparagraph (3), Code 2023, is amended by striking the  
3 subparagraph and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

4 (3) If the licensee is employed, the licensee may operate a  
5 motor vehicle during the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. over  
6 the most direct and accessible route between the licensee's  
7 residence or school of enrollment and the licensee's place  
8 of employment, provided the driving distance between the  
9 licensee's place of employment and the nearest point on the  
10 route on which the licensee is authorized to travel under  
11 subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (a), or subparagraph  
12 (2), subparagraph division (a), is no more than fifty miles.

13 Sec. 2. Section 321.194, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code  
14 2023, is amended to read as follows:

15 b. Upon receipt of a statement of necessity, the department  
16 shall issue the driver's license provided the applicant is  
17 otherwise eligible for issuance of the license. ~~The fact that~~  
18 ~~the applicant resides at a distance less than one mile from the~~  
19 ~~applicant's school of enrollment is prima facie evidence of~~  
20 ~~the nonexistence of necessity for the issuance of a license.~~  
21 ~~However, the distance between the applicant's residence and~~  
22 ~~school of enrollment shall not be considered if the applicant~~  
23 ~~resides on a farm or is employed for compensation on a farm.~~

24 EXPLANATION

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 Under current law, a person holding a special minor's  
28 driver's license is allowed to operate a motor vehicle  
29 during the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. between the  
30 licensee's residence, schools of enrollment, bus stops, and  
31 sites, facilities, or schools designated by the licensee's  
32 district or school of enrollment for the accommodation of the  
33 school's extracurricular activities, with certain limitations.  
34 Additionally, if the licensee resides on a farm or is employed  
35 for compensation on a farm in this state, the licensee is

1 authorized to operate a motor vehicle for the purpose of  
2 assisting the licensee's parents, guardians, or employers with  
3 farm work or in connection with any farm job, employment, or  
4 other farm-related work, including traveling to or from the  
5 location of the farm work, provided the licensee operates the  
6 vehicle over the most direct and accessible route between the  
7 point of origin and the destination and the driving distance  
8 between the point of origin and the destination is no more than  
9 50 miles. A licensee may also operate a motor vehicle to a  
10 service station along the associated routes.

11 This bill strikes the farm work authorization and instead  
12 authorizes a licensee who is employed to operate a motor  
13 vehicle during the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. over  
14 the most direct and accessible route between the licensee's  
15 residence or school of enrollment and the licensee's place  
16 of employment, provided the driving distance between the  
17 licensee's place of employment and the nearest point on the  
18 route on which the licensee is otherwise authorized to travel  
19 is no more than 50 miles.

20 Under current law, an application for a special minor's  
21 driver's license must be accompanied by a statement from  
22 the applicant's school of enrollment certifying that a need  
23 exists for the license. The fact that an applicant resides  
24 at a distance less than one mile from the applicant's school  
25 of enrollment is prima facie evidence of the nonexistence of  
26 necessity for the issuance of the license. The bill strikes  
27 the presumption of the nonexistence of necessity for an  
28 applicant who lives less than one mile from the applicant's  
29 school of enrollment.

30 A violation of Code section 321.194 is punishable by a  
31 scheduled fine of \$70.